

To Whom it May Concern:

As a flight attendant, I would like to comment and strongly oppose the rule change to relax or eliminate any control over the use of cell phones during flight. The use of cell phones in the air is not only inappropriate but unsafe. We have no data to suggest that cell phone use doesn't interfere with aircraft navigation systems. The NPRM claims that cell phone use among passengers would enhance security onboard because it would allow better communication with people on the ground. By the same token, it would enable terrorists on board to communicate with one another to execute a hijacking more effectively. They could, for example, simply take out a Blackberry to email the positions of flight crew or someone they suspect to be a Federal Air Marshal or to communicate if the flight deck door were being opened for a pilot. This is MY safety as well as the passengers' and it is not in my opinion negotiable for the "convenience" of making a phone call that until recent technology, was not even an option. An emergency phone call can be facilitated via air-phone service aboard most aircraft.

The mixture of thin air, cramped quarters, frayed nerves and alcohol consumption already pushes passengers to the limit. Add multiple, high volume cell phone conversations and the recipe for disaster is complete.

The introduction of cell phone use in the cabin will not only increase tension among passengers, it will compromise flight attendants' ability to maintain order in an emergency. Imagine trying to prepare passengers for an evacuation and getting the 'wait a minute finger wag' while the people in that area miss out on crucial information you are trying to communicate.

Please take into consideration that we have not had the ability to communicate via cell phone. We know that for the short duration of time in the air we will not be able to communicate via cell phone and can certainly plan accordingly. I don't believe there have been any occasions, or so few, where a cell phone could have been used to communicate or receive information to avoid a crisis, problem or certainly not a hi-jacking.

Your attention and consideration is appreciated.

Very truly yours,  
Stacy A. Sas  
Flight Attendant